



USET

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USET Resolution No. 2019:001

SUPPORT FOR USET CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-seven (27) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the Natural Resources Committee in 2000 determined that a Tribal Certification Program was necessary to protect Tribal Nation sovereignty and through Resolution 2000:057 the Board of Directors directed USET to apply for a grant from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 (EPA) to develop a USET Drinking Water System Operator Certification Program; and
- WHEREAS** the USET Natural Resources Committee promulgated the USET Certification Board Bylaws for Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts thus beginning a Tribally Driven Operator Certification Program for Tribal Nation Operators; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Board of Directors approved these Bylaws in Resolution 2002:50 and all subsequent amendments by Resolutions 2002:80, 2004:074, 2006:045, 2009:008, 2011:56, 2012:020, 2015:015, and 2018:002, thus showing the commitment of both the Natural Resources Committee and the Board of Directors to the USET Certification Program; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Board of Directors has approved the seven member USET Certification Board by Resolutions 2005:049, 2007:028, 2008:005, 2008:032, and 2017:001; and
- WHEREAS,** USET Resolution 2009:008 directed USET to follow the EPA National Tribal Drinking Water Operator Certification Program Guidelines to obtain approval for Tribal Drinking Water Certification and such approval was given by EPA on February 8, 2012; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Certification Program was the first Tribal Organization to receive EPA approval by following the Guidelines for Nationally Approved Tribal Drinking Water Operator Certification and is one of two Tribal organizations with this approval; and
- WHEREAS,** at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN, on June 18-20, 2018, the USET Certification Board discussed the USET Certification Program with the Board of Directors, gave reasons why all USET Member Tribal Nations should encourage USET Certification for their Tribal Operators, with the main reason being the Operator Certification Program is a Tribally driven program which affirms Tribal Sovereignty by certifying Tribal Nation Operators with a Certification equal to or better than State Certification; and

WHEREAS, in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors supports the USET Certification Board, the USET Certification Program, and the USET Bylaws for Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts; and, be it further

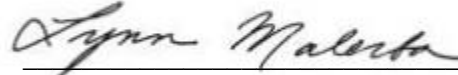
RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors encourages all USET Member Tribal Nations to have their Tribal Operators to obtain USET Certification as an affirmation of their Tribal Nation Sovereignty.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting held on the Sovereign Territory of the Seneca Nation of Indians, at which a quorum was present on October 11, 2018.



Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr., President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.